Senators Bromm, Baker, and Vrtiska.   (Read title.) Bill was read for the first time on January 10 of last year, referred to the Transportation Committee. That committee reported the bill to General File. The bill was considered yesterday. I have no amendments pending.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bromm, would you just give us a quick update on the substance of the...of the bill at this point.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, yesterday we discussed or we started and had an opening and a few questions on LB 491.   The bill would allow the Department of Roads discretion to allow a city or county to let state or federally funded contracts for projects within their jurisdictional boundaries. The procedure for letting the bids, the standards to which they would have to adhere to would not change, but it would...it would facilitate the state working through a local jurisdiction in letting some contracts for some projects if that were desired by the local jurisdiction and by the Department of Roads. That's kind of a summary and to...I haven't checked the screen.   There were no amendments yesterday but I haven't checked it yet, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Bromm.   We're now debating the advancement of LB 491. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I just rise in support of this bill.   I think that, hopefully in the long run, it could save money and also speed up some projects that might be done. So I would hope that the body would support this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Bromm, could I ask you a question?   I can see how this would work in a city where they would give up the discretion and so forth. I guess I'm, in my mind, I'm having a little...how it would in a county. Would the process be that the county would request that of the highway department? It would be up to the